



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

LAUREN DESROCHER
CHAIRMAN

RACHEL DEARBORN
VICE CHAIRMAN

VALERIE AMSEL
PAM MCCORMICK
ERIN STAVENS
LOIS TIMMS-FERRARA
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM
LINDA ANDERSON
JUDI MANFRE
ANN MCLAUGHLIN

AD HOC ELLINGTON
TRAILS COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2019
Town Hall Annex

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lauren Desrocher, Rachel Dearborn, Pam McCormick, Lois Timms-Ferrara, Linda Anderson, Erin Stavens

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judi Manfre, Ann McLaughlin, Cynthia van Zelm, Valerie Amsel

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Dinnie, Tom Palshaw

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Desrocher called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. CITIZENS FORUM

Tom Palshaw, 120 Pinney Street, discussed further improvements made at the Windermere Trail, including the ongoing spreading of woodchips. The Hockanum River Committee has begun winterizing their trails.

Mr. Palshaw would like a list of committee members and other volunteers in November who will need safety certification to use power tools. Ms. Desrocher will reach out to existing trail stewards to get them signed up. Mr. Palshaw brought up the potential use of emergency markers for the trails; this topic will be revisited in November.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (STAVENS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 MEETING MINUTES.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Printing and Signage Needs

The Committee has agreed to order two signs from Carl Warrek to read “Welcome to Ellington” and “The Brookside Mile.” When the Brookside path project is further along, vinyl signage with historical information will be ordered for the site.

Rachel Dearborn will order 500 Town trail maps for the Trail of Treats event, hopefully with the addition of the new Kimball spur trail and the Brookside Mile.

Ms. Desrocher will write up a double-sided postcard listing current volunteer needs and another handout with information about bats. Ms. Stavens will design both of these and 500 copies of each will be ordered from Ellington Printery for Trail of Treats.

B. Trail of Treats Assignments and Updates

Ms. Anderson reported that there are currently 45-47 vendors signed up for the Trail of Treats. Ms. Dearborn has secured a donation of pumpkins from Dzen's. Ms. Stavens will reach out to the Girl Scouts to see if they are willing to donate some carved jack o'lanterns. Ms. Anderson reviewed the notes from last week's logistical meeting including emergency services, police presence, Fire Marshal's requirements, use of golf carts for set-up, acquisition of walkie-talkies and the installation of snow fencing.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Trail Maintenance Plan/Schedule

This item was tabled to the November meeting due to member absences.

B. Water Collection State Improvements at Batz

Ms. Desrocher and Ms. Dearborn informed the committee that the water collection pavilion at the Batz Property has structural problems that should be addressed as soon as possible. The structure needs to be braced or have new footings poured as the base has shifted in previous winters and may not withstand another. The Committee feels that as stewards of this property, responsibility for this project falls to the members. Ms. Stavens recommended having Public Works assess the project as a first step. Ms. Dearborn will reach out to Public Works to discuss.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

A. Treasurer: Ms. Timms-Ferrara is in contact with the Finance Department and will update the Committee further in November with the correct procedures for making purchases.

B. Planning & Development: Ms. Anderson reported that the Big Y bridge build and trail clearing work party was a tremendous success. The Kimball spur trail needs further clearing and blazing, and steps need to be installed on the second bridge. All non-emergency trail maintenance has been put on hold until after a good frost, due to EEE concerns.

C. Maintenance: There was no report given.

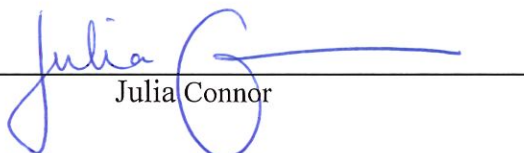
D. Community Outreach: The Fungus Walk with Bill Yule was a great success with a high turnout. This event as well as other educational walks will be highlighted in the next newsletter submission.

E. Trail of Treats: There were no further notes beyond what was discussed previously in the meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (DESROCHER), SECONDED (TIMMS-FERRARA) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:20 PM.

Submitted by


Julia Connor